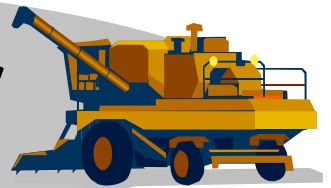


July 10, 2008

Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center



Volume 27 Issue 7

USDA SERVICE CENTER

88401 Hwy 82, Box B
Enterprise, OR 97828-3042
(541) 426-4521
(541) 426-4789 FAX

Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA

Bill Williams Ext. 5104
bill.williams@or.usda.gov

Lela Kunkle Ext. 5102
lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov

Susie Madigan Ext. 5103
susie.madigan@or.usda.gov

FSA Committee Members

Alan Klages
Wes Wilsey
Melvin Stonebrink
Donna Smith

NRCS

Tom Smith Ext. 5101
tom.smith@or.usda.gov

Nathan James Ext. 5107
nathan.james@or.usda.gov

SWCD

Cynthia Warnock Ext. 5106
cynthia.warnock@or.nacdnet.net

Joe Zuger Ext. 5108
joe.zuger@or.nacdnet.net

Operating Loans

Having trouble securing commercial credit? Annual and term operating loans up to \$300,000 are available through the Farm Service Agency. FSA is a federal lender that extends credit to farmers and ranchers who have been turned away by commercial lenders. FSA works with your budget and provides financial advising and servicing to help ensure a better chance for success.

Operating loan funds may be used for purchases such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Other potential uses include minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, basic family living needs, or refinancing of certain types of debt.

If you have any questions about the farm loan program, call the Umatilla County USDA Service Center in Pendleton at 541-278-8049 extension 2.

New Phone System

The phone system for the *Wallowa County USDA Service Center* has recently been updated. All Service Center employee extensions have been changed to four digits. Please refer to the left hand column of this newsletter for the new extension numbers. To contact FSA, NRCS, and SWCD employees, first dial (541) 426-4521 and then the individual's extension number.



CRITICAL HAYING/GRAZING OF CRP

Conservation Reserve Program participants that have certified stands may be eligible to hay or graze a portion of those fields July 16, through November 10, 2008.

You must have a haying/grazing component as part of your Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Producers may request a modification of their CPO to add a haying/grazing component.

Eligible producers may hay 50% of each field or graze 75% of the stocking rate of each field. A \$75.00 fee, per contract, must be paid prior to being approved for critical haying or grazing.

Please contact Lela (extension 5102) for more details.

New FSA Employee

Susie Madigan from Wallowa has recently joined the FSA team. Susie will be working with the Compliance, Price Support, Commodity Production, Automation, and Federal Crop Insurance programs. Please stop in and say "Hi".



Acreage Reporting 2008 Deadline

The deadline for your 2008 crop acreage report is August 15, 2008. Acreage reports are required for most FSA farm programs to maintain or establish eligibility. Please contact the office to set up an appointment if you have not yet reported your crops. **Remember to have your crop types and planting dates available for the report.**

2008 Dates to Remember

July 18	– Livestock Compensation Program Deadline
August 15	– Crop Reporting Deadline
September 1	– Office Closed – Labor Day
September 30	– 2008 DCP Enrollment Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, and 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA Service Center
88401 Hwy 82, Box B
Enterprise, OR 97828-3042

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN OR
PERMIT NO. 71

NRCS Announces date to apply for EQIP cost-share funding

NRCS is accepting applications for the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentive Program, (EQIP), through August 15th, 2008.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides both technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes to treat locally identified resource concerns. In Wallowa County, program emphasis is placed on upland water development for livestock, irrigation efficiency improvements, and the use of auto-boom, GPS guided auto-steer technology for the application of pesticides and nutrients.

In 2009, EQIP cost share for eligible practices will be at 50 percent of the average cost of installation. Cost-share agreements are generally developed for a period of one to three years.

Interested landowners should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the Enterprise USDA Service Center, or call (541) 426-4521 ext. 5101. NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round on a continuous basis. Funding decisions are made at cutoff points during the year, with current ranking period closing August 15, 2008.

Submit applications to the USDA Service Center located at 88401 Hwy 82, Enterprise by August 15th. For more information about EQIP, including local program priorities, approved practices, and cost-share rates, visit the Oregon NRCS web site at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

2008 DCP Contracts

Are you planning to participate in the 2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)? If so, please contact Lela (extension 5102) or Susie (extension 5103) to schedule an appointment. The deadline to enroll is September 30, 2008 (no late enrollment). **Remember that you must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year that you want to participate.**

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conversion provisions on all of your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use. Planting fruits and vegetables (other than lentils, mung beans and dry peas) on base acreage may result in payment reductions or loss of benefits;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- file acreage report(s) with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or a change of interest of a producer.

Advance payments are 22% for 2008.